

the substitution of equivalent features or parts, and the reversal of various features thereof, may be practiced by those of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the spirit or scope of the following claims.

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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A soil bed edge forming machine, comprising:

a frame;

a motor and wheels connected to said frame;

10 a soil bed edge forming blade; said motor being drivingly connected to said soil bed edge forming blade; and

an elongated handle connected to said frame, said handle having a first portion configured for moving between a retracted position and an extended position.

15 2. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 1, wherein at least two of said wheels are caster wheels.

20 3. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 1, wherein said handle includes a hinge for allowing said movement of said first portion of said handle between said retracted position and said extended position.

25 4. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 1, wherein said handle includes a second portion and further comprising a hinge connected to both said first and second portions for allowing said first portion of said handle to pivot between said retracted position and said extended position; and further comprising a locking member for locking said first portion of said handle in said retracted position and in said extended position.

5. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim  
1, wherein:

    said handle includes a second portion; and  
    further comprising:

5       a hinge connected to both said first and second portions  
for allowing pivotal movement of said first portion of said handle  
between said retracted position and said extended position; and

10      a receiver connected to said frame for receiving said  
first portion of said handle when said handle is in said retracted  
position.

6. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim  
1, wherein:

    said handle includes a second portion; and  
    further comprising:

15       a hinge connected to both said first and second portions  
for allowing pivotal movement of said first portion of said handle  
between said retracted position and said extended position; and

20      a receiver connected to said frame for receiving said  
first portion of said handle when said handle is in said retracted  
position and for holding said first portion of said handle in a  
generally horizontal position.

25      7. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim  
1, wherein said handle includes a hinge for allowing pivotal  
movement of said first portion of said handle between said  
retracted position and said extended position, such that upon said  
first portion of said handle being in said retracted position, each

of the length, width, and height dimensions of said soil bed edge forming machine is less than 33 inches.

8. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 1, wherein said handle includes a hinge for allowing pivotal movement of said first portion of said handle between said retracted position and said extended position, such that upon said first portion of said handle being in said retracted position, the volume occupied by said soil bed edge forming machine is less than 10 cubic feet.

9. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 1, wherein said handle includes a hinge for allowing pivotal movement of said first portion of said handle between said retracted position and said extended position, such that upon said first portion of said handle being in said retracted position, the length dimension of said soil bed edge forming machine is less than 32 inches.

10. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 1, wherein said handle includes a hinge for allowing pivotal movement of said first portion of said handle between said retracted position and said extended position, such that upon said first portion of said handle being in said retracted position the width dimension of said soil bed edge forming machine is less than 27 inches.

11. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 1, wherein said handle includes a hinge for allowing pivotal movement of said first portion of said handle between said retracted position and said extended position, such that upon said

handle being in said retracted position the height dimension of said soil bed edge forming machine is less than 20 inches.

12. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 1, wherein said handle is configured such that upon said first portion of said handle being in said retracted position, each of the length, width, and height dimensions of said soil bed edge forming machine is less than 33 inches.

13. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 1, wherein said frame includes a forward portion and a rearward portion, and further comprising: an arm connected to said forward portion of said frame; and a front wheel connected to said arm; and said arm being movable between a transport position for holding said soil bed edge forming blade generally above the surface of the soil, and an edging position for causing said soil bed edge forming blade to be engaged with the soil for forming a soil bed edge.

14. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 1, wherein said frame includes a forward portion and a rearward portion, and further comprising an arm pivotally connected to said forward portion of said frame; a front wheel connected to said arm; said arm including an outwardly extending handle for use in carrying said soil bed edge forming machine; and said arm being movable between a transport position for holding said soil bed edge forming blade generally above the surface of the soil and an edging position for causing said soil bed edge forming blade to be engaged with the soil for forming a soil bed edge.

15. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 1, wherein said frame includes a forward portion and a rearward

portion, and further comprising an arm pivotally connected to said forward portion of said frame; a front wheel connected to said arm; said arm being movable between a transport position for holding said soil bed edge forming blade generally above the surface of the soil and an edging position for causing said soil bed edge forming blade to be engaged with the soil for forming a soil bed edge; and a lock for selectively locking said arm in at least one of said transport and edging positions.

16. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 1, wherein said frame includes a forward portion and a rearward portion, and further comprising an arm connected to said forward portion of said frame; a front wheel connected to said arm; said arm being movable between a transport position for holding said soil bed edge forming blade generally above the surface of the soil and an edging position for causing said soil bed edge forming blade to be engaged with the soil for forming a soil bed edge; and a spring-biased locking pin for selectively locking said arm in at least one of said transport and edging positions.

17. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 1, wherein said frame includes a forward portion and a rearward portion, and further comprising an arm pivotally connected to said forward portion of said frame; a front wheel connected to said arm; said arm including a handle for use in carrying said soil bed edge forming machine; said arm being movable between a transport position for holding said soil bed edge forming blade generally above the surface of the soil and an edging position for causing said soil bed edge forming blade to be engaged with the soil for

forming a soil bed edge; and a spring-biased locking pin for selectively locking said arm in at least one of said transport and edging positions.

18. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 5 1, wherein said handle includes a second portion and wherein said first portion is of greater length than said second portion.

19. A soil bed edge forming machine, comprising:  
10 a frame;  
a motor and wheels connected to said frame;  
a soil bed edging blade; said motor being drivingly connected to said soil bed edging blade;  
15 a handle connected to said frame, said handle having a first portion movable between an extended position and a folded position, wherein said first portion of said handle is folded over and above said frame; and  
a lock for selectively locking said handle in said extended and folded positions.

20. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 19, wherein said frame includes a forward portion and a rearward portion, and further comprising an arm connected to said forward portion of said frame; a front wheel connected to said arm; said arm being movable between a transport position for holding said soil bed edging blade generally above the surface of the soil and an edging position for causing said soil bed edging blade to be 25 engaged with the soil for forming a soil bed edge; and a spring-biased locking pin for selectively locking said arm in at least one of said transport and edging positions.

21. A soil bed edge forming machine, comprising:  
a frame;  
a motor and wheels connected to said frame;  
a soil bed edging blade; said motor being drivingly  
5 connected to said soil bed edging blade;  
a handle connected to said frame;  
means for retraction of said handle from an extended  
position to a folded position; and  
a lock for selectively locking said handle in said  
10 extended and folded positions.

22. A soil bed edge forming machine, comprising:  
a frame having a forward portion and a rearward portion;  
a motor connected to said frame;  
a soil bed edging blade; said motor being drivingly  
15 connected to said soil bed edging blade;  
a handle connected to said frame, said handle including  
a first portion and a second portion;  
a hinge connected to both said first and second portions  
for allowing said movement of said handle between a retracted  
20 position and an extended position;  
a receiver connected to said frame for receiving said  
first portion of said handle when said handle is in said retracted  
position;  
a lock for selectively locking said handle in said  
25 extended and retracted positions;  
an arm pivotally connected to said forward portion of  
said frame;

a wheel connected to said arm; said arm being movable between a transport position for holding said soil bed edging blade generally above the surface of the soil and an edging position for causing said soil bed edging blade to be engaged with the soil for  
5 forming a soil bed edge;

a spring-biased locking pin for selectively locking said arm in at least one of said transport and edging positions; and

each of the length, width, and height dimensions of said soil bed edge forming machine being less than 33 inches upon said  
10 handle being in said retracted position.

23. A soil bed edge forming machine as defined in Claim 22, wherein said first portion of said handle is in a generally horizontal position upon said handle being in said retracted position.

15 24. A bed edging blade for attachment to a bed edging machine, comprising:

a base plate and an end plate;

at least two arms connected to said base plate and said end plate, said arms being acutely angled with respect to said base  
20 plate; and

outwardly extending digging fingers connected to said arms, said digging fingers being angled outwardly with respect to said base plate and configured such that said digging fingers propel the soil in a direction away from said base plate and  
25 towards said end plate as said bed edging blade is used.

25. A bed edging blade as defined in Claim 24, further comprising said digging fingers being inwardly curved along their length.

26. A bed edging blade as defined in Claim 24, wherein 5 said at least one of said two arms includes a digging finger having a forward cutting edge acutely angled with respect to said base plate.

27. A bed edging blade as defined in Claim 24, wherein said base plate includes at least one outwardly extending digging 10 finger for digging a groove below the depth of the bed edge.

28. A bed edging blade as defined in Claim 24, wherein said base plate includes at least one outwardly extending digging finger and a brace portion connected to and extending adjacent the major portion of the length of said digging finger.

15 29. A bed edging blade as defined in Claim 24, wherein said arms are configured for causing an augering effect for propelling the soil in a direction away from said base plate and towards said end plate as said bed edging blade is used.

30. A bed edging blade as defined in Claim 24, wherein 20 said base plate is configured to define a generally vertical wall in the soil and as said bed edging blade is used.

31. A bed edging blade for attachment to a bed edging machine, comprising:

25 a base plate and an end plate, said base plate being configured for forming a generally vertical wall in the soil and as said bed edging blade is used;

at least two arms connected to said base plate and said end plate, said arms being acutely angled with respect to said base plate;

5 outwardly extending digging fingers connected to said arms; and

10 said arms and said digging fingers being angled outwardly with respect to said base plate and configured such that said arms and said digging fingers cause a augering effect for propelling the soil in a direction away from said base plate and towards said end plate such that the soil forms a mound of soil adjacent said end plate as said bed edging blade is used.

32. An earth working machine, comprising:

a frame;

a motor and wheels connected to said frame;

15 a digging blade; said motor being drivingly connected to said digging blade;

a handle connected to said frame;

means for retraction of said handle from an extended position to a folded position; and

20 a lock for selectively locking said handle in said extended and folded positions.